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Note verbale dated 7 February 2017 from the Permanent Mission of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to submit the candidature of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Zimbabwe acceded to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol in 1981, a year after its independence. Zimbabwe has also been a party to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons since 1998. Over the years, Zimbabwe has taken practical steps to demonstrate its commitment to issues relating to refugees, notably by accommodating refugees from the region. Currently, Zimbabwe hosts a large number of refugees in its Tongogara camp and is also assisting an estimated 3,000 refugees who recently crossed into Zimbabwe following renewed security disturbances in their country of origin.

Zimbabwe has also committed to regional efforts to address the plight of refugees as a State party to the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa.

Zimbabwe's membership in the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner for Refugees would enable it to enhance its engagement on this important issue.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the United Nations has the honour to request that the present note be circulated as a document of the Economic and Social Council, under the appropriate agenda item.

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